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**To: California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Vision 2030 Project**

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### **Vision for California agriculture by 2030**

- Small family farms will be the primary source of California agriculture.
- Small farm farming will be a popular and desirable occupation
- Small family farm farmers will not only be able to make a viable living, but that farming will be a lucrative occupation.
- Sustainable agriculture will be the only method of agriculture (i.e. all agriculture will be performed in a sustainable fashion).
- There will be extensive use of bio-intensive gardening/mini-farming techniques along with composting and use of compost tea and extract.
- Factory farms will no longer be a model of agricultural practice.
- Organic farming methods will be the norm.
- Agriculture will be part of urban life as well as rural life.
- Every household has a garden and/or mini-farm which is their major food source.

### **What will be the biggest challenges in achieving that vision?**

- Educating growers/farmers on the importance and necessity of sustainable agriculture practices.
- Overcoming grower/farmer resistance due to long-established habits, conventional practices, and mind-sets.
- Educating growers/farmers on the actual sustainable agriculture practices.
- Redirecting federal and state financial support and resources from the large factory farms to the smaller family farms.

### **In 2030, how has public perception of agriculture changed?**

Agriculture had become commonplace and embraced by urban dwellers as well as rural communities. Every household grows at least some of their own food. People will have more of a personal relationship with their food – and know where their food comes from and is grown, thus eliminating the disconnect for the urban dweller as to how and where their food comes from. There will also be a more personal relationship between the growers and the consumers. There will be more farmer's markets and more opportunities for the public to buy direct from the farmer. Most people will not only understand the

importance of connection with the land and growing their own food, but they will want the hand-on opportunity of helping to grow and produce their own food, and community as well as personal gardens will abound. There will be many mini-farms within most urban areas as well as in urban areas. There will not only be a rebirth of “victory gardens,” but also of “victory farms.” This will essentially not only help to supply needed food to communities, to localize food production, and bring people in closer touch with the land, but it will also help create a “healthy” society, with access to the tastiest and most nutritious food sources.

### **What is a “must have” in an Ag Vision for California?**

Sustainable agriculture is the goal toward which all other actions need to be directed. Sustainable agriculture is not only the way of the future – it is the means by which much of the world’s population (including those of us in the United States) will have a future.

- Sustainable agricultural practices will help to bring back the topsoil, ensure truly productive agriculture, and increase the food security of residents in California and the United States.
- Sustainable agriculture will reduce pollution of our lands and waterways.
- Sustainable agriculture will help to mitigate the immense challenges of climate change and help to nourish the land.
- Sustainable agriculture will bring about a renewed prosperity in California.
- Sustainable agriculture will support more nutritious and tasty crop production, thus supporting the general health and well-being of Californians and Americans.